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Senate

The Senate met at 9:15 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Immortal and invisible God only wise, we cannot escape You, nor do we desire to do so. This morning we thank You for sending the rain from Heaven, watering the Earth and making it bud and flourish. Thank You for providing seeds for the sower and a harvest for the laborers.

Lord, thank You as well for our lawmakers. As they serve You today on Capitol Hill, give them courage, power, and wisdom. May You bless and keep them from stumbling or slipping, so that one day they will stand in Your presence with great joy. Today, Lord, lift the light of Your countenance upon them and give them Your peace.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 11, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, if any, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2432, the college affordability bill.

The time until 10 a.m. this morning will be divided as follows—and there is an order outstanding that dictates this: Senator ALEXANDER will control 15 minutes, and the remaining time will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

At 10 a.m. there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the college affordability bill.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, all over America today there are newspaper articles of hope—for example, in the Washington Post today, “Veterans Affairs bills progressing quickly in Congress.” It quotes me as saying it is something that needs to be done. “It’s urgent that we get this done to resolve some of the outstanding issues within the VA.”

My friend the Republican leader, the senior Senator from Kentucky, “predicted that GOP senators will overwhelmingly support the bill.”

This is what the article says about Mr. MILLER from Florida, the House chairman:

Miller signaled support for the Sanders-McCain bill, noting that it largely mirrors a series of similar stand-alone proposals the House approved in recent months.

Each side has run what are called hotlines—meaning permission from Senators to move forward on this legislation—and we have been able to do that. It was my understanding late last evening that the junior Senator from Oklahoma has an amendment he feels should be offered. Fine. Let’s bring that up, vote on it, and move on.

This is a bill that needs to get done. Not only are the veterans elated to hear language like what I have just read but also people all over America because we support the veterans community.

We have issues that are so deep and complex that we need to get to. Will this solve all the issues? Of course not. But because of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, we have 2 million new veterans who have a multitude of problems we have never had in other wars. So I certainly hope we can quickly arrange an opportunity to move forward on this legislation. I stand ready to work with my Democratic allies here and those in the minority to do everything we can to move forward on this legislation as quickly as possible.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

BANK ON STUDENT EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2432, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 409, S. 2432, a bill to amend the

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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